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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon turned out to be somewhat of a fashion connoisseur Monday, at least as far as women's slacks are concerned.

After a bill-signing ceremony in his Oval Office, Nixon observed that a woman reporter was wearing slacks, and commented: "Slacks can do something for some people, but it can't ..."

The remainder of the President's observation was lost in laughter by officials and reporters.

Still gazing at the reporter, Helen Thomas of United Press International, Nixon said: "I think you do very well ... turn around." She did.

Then he asked Miss Thomas, "Do they cost less than gowns?"

"No," she replied.

"Then change," Nixon said. More laughter.